

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /090 W

-----281831 073302 /44

R 281410Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6954

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MPAUTO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WA, MPS, PINT, PINS

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: GUERILLAS HIT CAPRIVI BASE

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. LOCAL PRESS HEADLINED "12 KILLED IN CAPRIVI STRIP"
IN WEEKEND REPORTING OF ROUTINE SAG DEFENSE FORCE
BRIEFING GIVEN FEBRUARY 25. SADF SPOKESMAN SAID
BAND OF SWAPO GUERILLAS HAD ATTACKED A SADF PATROL
OUTPOST FEB 22 ABOUT 8 KM INSIDE CAPRIVI STRIP AT
UNIDENTIFIED LOCATION DESCRIBED AS NEAR BORDERS OF STRIP
WITH ANGOLA AND ZAMBIA. ORIGIN OF BAND UNKNOWN BUT
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AFTER BRIEF FIRE FIGHT IT FLED IN DIRECTION OF
ZAMBIA. THREE SADF PERSONNEL WOUNDED IN INITIAL
ACTION, AND THREE ATTACKERS KILLED.

2. IN PURSUING BAND, NINE ADDITIONAL GUERILLAS
REPORTED KILLED IN TWO ENCOUNTERS. SADF HELICOPTER
SHOT DOWN, KILLING PILOT. SADF DID NOT RPT NOT

PURSUE REMAINING GUERILLAS INTO ZAMBIA, BUT
BELIEVES SEVERAL WERE WOUNDED. END UNCLASSIFIED

COMMENT:

3. THIS IS FIRST RELATIVELY SERIOUS GUERILLA ACTIVITY
IN CAPRIVI AREA SINCE MID-1975. WITH OPENING OF
UN COMMITTEE OF 24 HEARINGS ON NAMIBIA FEB 25, SWAPO
MAY HAVE FELT IT NECESSARY TO DEMONSTRATE SOME
MILITARY ACTIVITY. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS SOME SWAPO
PENETRATION OF OVAMBOLAND DURING 1976, AN
ANTICIPATED MAJOR GUERILLA CAMPAIGN HAD FAILED TO
MATERIALIZE FOLLOWING ONSET OF RAINY SEASON SOME
WEEKS AGO, WHICH USUALLY FAVORS GUERILLAS. SADF
PERSONNEL SERVING IN RECENT MONTHS IN "OPERATIONAL
AREA", WHICH INCLUDES BOTH OVAMBO AND CAPRIVI, HAD
COMMENTED ON RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL OF ACTIVITY.
THEY SPECULATED PRIVATELY THAT IT MAY HAVE BEEN DUE
TO DISSENSION WITHIN SWAPO, UNITA ACTIONS AGAINST
SWAPO BASE AREAS (WHICH KEPT SWAPO OFF BALANCE) AND
PROBABILITY THAT SUPPLIES PROMISED TO SWAPO BY
CUBANS OR SOVIET BLOC HAD BEEN SLOW IN REACHING
FORWARD CAMPS. WHETHER THIS ATTACK IS ISOLATED
STRIKE OR OPENING OF INTENSIFIED CAMPAIGN REMAINS
TO BE SEEN. BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRETOR00926
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977022/aaaaacbz.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a5dc60c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
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Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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SAS ID: 3260605
Secure: OPEN
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Subject: NAMIBIA: GUERILLAS HIT CAPRIVI BASE BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: MOPS, PINT, PINS, WA, SWAPO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a5dc60c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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